

We claim:

1. A method for enabling access to a file, which is stored on a storage medium together with at least one other file by a computer system comprising the steps of:

- transmitting a device identification number $ID(i-1)$ for the computer system, to a central station;
- calculating a new device identification number $ID(i)$ using the transmitted device identification number $ID(i-1)$ and an alternating code c in the central station;
- generating a first scrambled code PIN using the calculated device identification number $ID(i)$ and a key k in the central station;
- generating a second scrambled code ACW using the identifier for the file which is to be enabled and the key k in the central station,
- transmitting the first scrambled code PIN and the second scrambled code ACW from the central station to the computer system;
- calculating the new device identification number $ID(i)$ in the computer system from the previously stored device identification number $ID(i-1)$ and the alternating code c , which is stored in a nonvolatile memory of the computer system;
- calculating the key k using the first scrambled code PIN and the device identification number $ID(i)$;
- calculating the identifier AC for the file using the second scrambled code ACW and the key k ;
- enabling the file provided with the identifier AC for use by the computer system.

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the files are encrypted using the key k and are decrypted for use by the computer system using the key k .

3. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the files are stored on the storage medium in a logical file structure, in particular in a hierarchical file structure.

4. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the identifier for a file can be described as a vector.

5. The method according to claim 4, characterized in that the vector has binary components.

6. The method according to claim 5, characterized in that the vector has at least m components, where m is the number of files.

7. The method according to claim 6, characterized in that m components $a(1)$, $a(2)$, $a(3)$, ... of the vector $AC(x) = (a(1), a(2), a(3), \dots, a(x-1), a(x), a(x+1), \dots, a(m))$ are used to determine the position of a file $D(x)$ in the hierarchical file structure such that all the components of the vector $AC(x)$ which are allocated to files on which the file $D(x)$ is hierarchically dependent take a first value while all the remaining components, which are allocated to files on which the file $D(x)$ is not hierarchically dependent, take a second value.

8. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the key k can be described as a vector.

9. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the computer system is a navigation computer in a motor vehicle navigation system.

10. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the files contain road map data.

11. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the files contain application programs.

12. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that one of the scrambled codes contains an information item relating to a time limit on a use right.

13. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the second scrambled code can be described as a vector, and the vector contains one or more components storing the information item relating to the time limit on the period of use.

14. The method according to claim 13, characterized in that the vectors for the scrambled codes are converted into decimal numbers before transmission.

15. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the file(s) is(are) transmitted to the computer system via a communication network.

16. A system for managing and enabling use rights on files, comprising:

- a plurality of local computer systems, where each of the computer systems can be identified by a device identification number ID;

- storage media for the local computer systems on which at least two files are stored and provided with an identifier AC;

- a central station having a central computer system in which the device identification numbers ID for the local computer systems are recorded, where the central station contains means for stipulating a first and a second scrambled code (PIN and ACW) for the purpose of enabling use rights on a file for one of the local computer systems, at least one of the codes containing the stored device identification number for the local computer system, and at least one of the codes containing the identifier AC for the file which is to be enabled;

- means for transmitting the scrambled codes to the local computer system;

means for unscrambling the transmitted codes in the local computer system using the device identification number stored in the local computer system and for enabling the file for use by the local computer system.

17. A system according to claim 16, characterized in that the storage media are optical storage media, in particular CD-ROM or DVD.

18. A system according to claim 16, characterized in that the local computer systems are navigation computers in motor vehicle navigation systems.

19. As system according to claim 16, characterized in that the local computer system contains a file management system which enables use of only those files for which the identifier AC is present.

20. A system according to claim 16, characterized in that the first and the second scrambled code can be transmitted directly from the central station to the local computer system.

21. A system according to claim 20, characterized in that the transmission takes place wirelessly.

22. A system according to claim 20, characterized in that the local computer system is connected to a radio telephone.

23. A system according to claim 16, characterized in that the files are encrypted.

24. A system according to claim 16, further comprising means for transmitting the files from the central station to the local computer system.

25. A system according to claim 16, characterized in that the key k for decrypting the files is held in one of the scrambled codes.

26. A system according to claim 16, characterized in that usage rights are time-limited.

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